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Amateur Home Decoration.

Edward Dewson, del.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

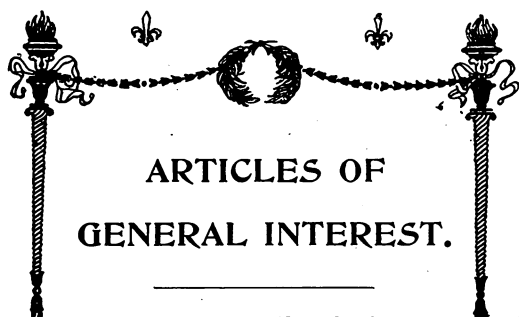
Subscribers who are either building new houses or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes, are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions of interior decoration.

In compliance with the wishes of many of our correspondents to purchase housefurnishing goods in New York, we notify our readers that we have organized a Purchasing Department, and are prepared to purchase goods at prices quoted, without making any charge therefor. We strongly advise those who write to us for decorative color schemes to carefully consider our advice, with the samples of the various materials in hand, which we invariably send with each

reply, so that their minds will be fully made up when they ask us to Purchase the goods, and know that every item of their order is the result of a definite decision. It is impossible to exchange goods after the materials have been cut and shipped, and we hope, in all cases, that the goods as ordered, when sent will be accepted and paid for.

Correspondents when writing us are particularly requested to embody a reply to the following points in their letters:

1. Write legibly and on one side of the paper.
2. Send copy of architect's plan or a rough sketch of the plan of the house, showing size, height and arrangement of rooms, with the north and south aspects clearly indicated.
3. Give particulars of existing wood-work, mentioning the nature of the trim, floor, cornice, picture-moldings and mantel in each room; state what must be retained, and what, if any, specified articles of furniture are desired.
4. State separately the maximum outlay permissible for wall treatments, ceiling decoration (if any), textile hangings, carpets and furniture.
5. Send brief notes of the house, its location, age and environment, and such particulars of the owner's tastes and sentiments bearing upon the matter as would be discovered from a personal interview.
6. Send ten two-cent stamps if samples of paper, carpets, draperies, etc. are desired by mail, otherwise we must express same at inquirer's expense.



ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST.

POCKET-BOOKS AND CARD-CASES.

From Harper's Bazar.

A PRETTY porte-monnaie—a pocket-book as it is now called—and a card-case are dearly loved by all women who like to have dainty things, and this year the bright-colored leather card-cases add a dash of color to the gowns that is exceedingly smart.

Green in the different shades and bright red are the favorite colors, but there are some exquisite white and dove colors which, when worn with the calling costume, seem to add an additional touch of elegance. There are two shapes, one oblong and quite small, the other the size and shape of a large envelope. The snake and lizard skins are not so new as the grained leather and pigskin, which can be color-treated so cleverly. When silver corners are used, the plain, unornamented are preferred, in reaction from all the gaudy effects we have had in the white metal. Ivory and tortoise-shell are among the novelties, some with a tiny watch, which, by the way, is a very important addition to a card-case; but fashion

has not proclaimed decisively in favor of either of the materials, which are shown as novelties merely. The chain-work purses of gold or silver meshes with jewelled tops are very elaborate and amazingly expensive, but the simpler, less showy leather pocket-books of oblong shape, and small enough to carry comfortably in the hand, are really smarter. In many instances pocket-books and card-cases are combined, and all card-cases have a pocket where change can be carried; but even though visiting-cards are smaller and thinner than ever, the pocket-book large enough to carry them without crushing the edges is a little larger than is strictly fashionable. Good pocket-books are invariably expensive; five dollars is cheap for one that will wear well. Only very simple gold or silver trimmings are now in style, and the beauty must be in the shape and material and finish.

HOW TO UTILIZE BERRY BOXES.

SOME quaint little useful as well as ornamental articles can readily be constructed by taking the ubiquitous berry boxes as a foundation. Strawberries mostly come in square boxes, while raspberries come in round and oblong boxes, and any of them may be utilized.

The square box may be covered and lined with silk, finished at the top with a ruffle or ribbon, box-pleated, and a bow of ribbon at the corners or side. A small needle-case tied on one side, a little packet made of the same silk on the other will hold a spool of cotton or silk and a few buttons. This will be found very convenient in one's bedroom, and save many a step to the sewing-room. A thimble and scissors, of course, are to be

added, and any other articles deemed necessary for immediate use. Having such implements at hand is an inducement to take the few stitches that might go untaken if it involved the extra exertion of going to the other end of the house for materials. Two of these boxes upholstered in this way and joined together by means of a large bow of ribbon in the middle are very useful, and are rather ornamental.

The round raspberry boxes may be treated similarly for the toilet-table. Take three and cover and line with silk. Convert one into a depository for little odds and ends, one for hair and bonnet pins, and the other add enough silk to form a bag that will draw up with ribbon to hold various trifles, and, being thus protected, will prevent them from getting dusty.

The oblong basket is very shallow, and dressed with silk and ribbon makes a fancy little adjunct for the desk. It will form a convenient receptacle for a pencil, rubber, knife, etc. If a lid is required, it can be readily fashioned to fit by cutting a piece of cardboard just the required size and cover with same material, and tie at the back with narrow ribbon, which will answer the purpose of hinges. Three of the round boxes were recently converted into a pretty and useful gift for a gentleman's smoking-room. They were covered and lined with a rich golden brown satin, inside plain, over a layer of wadding, and the outside was gathered on full. The three were tied together with a broad satin ribbon (yellow) bow. One had a bag, and this held tobacco, while one of the others held several pipes, and the other was for matches. The recipient fully appreciated the large quantity of these indispensable accompaniments it contained, and altogether it was quite a success.